Withholding of incentives to passengers travelling to Nepal

261. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has recently discontinued the incentives given to the passengers travelling to Nepal during summer; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the growth in traffic and other market considerations, a commercial decision has been taken by Indian Airlines and their poal partners Royal Nepal Airlines not to reintroduce Indo-Nepal excursion fare during summer this year.

Abolition of the Freight Equalization Policy

262. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to abolish the freight equalisation policy for iron and steel and a parallel practice of a telescopic freight structure for coal purchased by the railways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) As a result of the recommendations made by the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee) the Government have already accepted in principle that the existing freight equalisation on steel should be phased out gradually subject to the subsidisation of transport for remote, in-accessible and isolated areas. Necessary steps are being taken by the Department of Steel to work out suitable schemes|modalities to phase out freight equalisation. No proposal for abolition of the telescopic freight structure for coal purchased by the Railways is presently under consideration. The justification for telescopic freight structure lies in the fact that the cost of transportation tends to become lower with increase in distance.

One-Day World Cup Cricket Tournament

263. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of matches of the ensuing one day World Cup Cricket Tournament are proposed to be held in India and

(b) whether the final is proposal to be held in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Investments in the Component Sector of Electronics

264. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of new investments in the component sector of electronics following announcement of the new electronics policy last March by Government; and

(b) if the amount is inadequate, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY.